

Weekly Status and Information Report: Week of August 28 - September 1, 2006

1. Congressional Hearing on Gangs in Maryland: The House Committee on Governmental Reform will hold a field hearing in the Community Center Auditorium on Wednesday, September 6 at 12:30 pm. The topic will be gang activity in Maryland. This will not be an open public forum; testimony will be provided by persons invited by the Committee. The hearing will air live on City TV 13 as well as a live web-stream at www.takomaparkmd.gov. (Community and Government Liaison; Communications)
2. Public Hearing on Metro Development. WMATA has announced a public hearing on the proposed Takoma Metro development. The hearing will be Wednesday, October 11 from 6-10 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, 7005 Piney Branch Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20012. To register to speak at the hearing, persons must furnish their name, address, telephone number and organization affiliation, if any, to Ms. Debra Johnson, Secretary, WMATA, 600 Fifth Street, NW, Washington DC 20001, or you may fax it to her at 202-962-1133. Background information is available on the WMATA web site at <http://www.wmata.com/about/community/default.cfm#hearings>. (Community and Government Liaison)
3. Safe Routes to School (City-Wide): City Staff held two workshops this week for representatives of elementary and middle schools and PTA organizations in and around Takoma Park to discuss the possibility of applying for a grant to develop an inter-school Safe Routes to School Program. Representatives of the City of Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee, Takoma Park Police, and the Washington Area Bicycle Association also attended the workshops. The State Highway Administration is distributing a Federal grant with the objective of increasing the number of children who walk and bike to school and do so safely. The workshops had a very positive response and staff will continue to coordinate with school officials and PTA representatives to develop the grant. (Housing and Community Development)
4. Carroll Avenue Commercial Construction Project (Wards 1 and 3): The commercial section of the Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project was put out to bid Friday, September 1st. Bids are due early October. The project includes spot construction of selected intersections, tree boxes, and sidewalks for pedestrian safety and revitalization. (Housing and Community Development)
5. Montgomery College Student Center Opening (Ward 1): Montgomery College has invited the community to a celebration of the opening of the new Student Services Center on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The community celebration will be from 5:30 - 7:00 PM, Friday, September 8th, 2006 at the new Student Services Center, 7625 Fenton Street. Light refreshments will be served. (Housing and Community Development)
6. Communications Office News (City-Wide): Communications Office Director Lonni Moffet attended the annual conference of the National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors (NATOA) last week. The City received an Honorable Mention for the City TV pages of the city website (www.takomaparkmd.gov/cable). Additionally, the City TV web pages were highlighted in a Keynote Speech by Al Tompkins, award-winning broadcast journalist from The Poynter Group. Mr. Tompkins discussed three government web sites which offer "Interactive" features, an important attribute for today's technology and for meeting user expectations.

(Communications)

7. Arrests (Ward 3, 4, 5 and 6): Several arrests were made this week. On Aug. 25 about 2 a.m., Squad 3 stopped a suspect in the 6300 block of Eastern Avenue who matched the suspect description in an attempted commercial burglary earlier that night in the 6400 block of New Hampshire Avenue. The suspect was arrested for that incident and a successful burglary at the same location on Aug. 20 based on surveillance tape identification provided by the business. A resident of the 8300 block of Roanoke Avenue was arrested Thursday by Squad 2 on an outstanding warrant for pandering and 4th degree sex offense, related to a July incident with a teenaged prostitute. Takoma Park officers, with assistance of Montgomery and Prince George's County Police, detained a suspect in a 1st degree assault that occurred early Sept. 1 in the 1000 block of University Blvd. East. The Silver Spring suspect is also charged with attempted homicide; the victim remains hospitalized with life-threatening injuries and additional suspects are sought. (Police Department)

8. Traffic Stops (City-Wide): Officers made more than 100 traffic stops this week, most ending in citations or warning, primarily on major routes including New Hampshire Avenue, Hwy 410, Piney Branch Road, Carroll Avenue and Flower Avenue. (Police Department)

9. COP Team (Wards 1 and 4): COP Team member, Cpl. Smith participated in back-to-school activities this week at Takoma Park Middle and Piney Branch Elementary, including traffic direction in the parking lots. Sgt. Gilbert attended planning sessions for the September Folk Festival and October Street Festival. (Police Department)

10. Parking Permits (Ward 2): Parking permits for the new Residential Permit Parking Area 5 went on sale this week. The area contains 56 households; a total of 34 permits have been issued (some households obtaining multiple permits). (Police Department)

11. Community Development Block Grant - Application Deadline September 11th (City-Wide): The City of Takoma Park is accepting applications for its PY33 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The program provides, on a competitive basis, resources for a variety of projects which benefit Takoma Park's low and moderate income residents. The deadline for submission is Monday, September 11, 2006. Funds would be available on or about January 1, 2008. Applications are available on the City's web site at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/cdbgapp.pdf> For more information, please contact Sara Anne Daines at (301) 891-7224 or by email at SaraD@takomagov.org. (Housing and Community Development)

12. Call for Poetry (City-Wide): The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting poets for the 2007 Takoma Park Poetry Series. The series will begin this winter and will feature some of the finest poets in the city and surrounding area. If you (or someone you know) would like to be considered for a spot in the series, please send 3-5 poems to Poet Laureate Don Berger at ahc@takomagov.org Submissions may also be mailed to the Arts and Humanities Commission c/o Sara Anne Daines at 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912. The submission deadline is Wednesday, October 11, 2006. (Housing and Community Development)

13. New Exhibit at the Community Center (City-Wide): The work of Laura Chassy will be on display at the Community Center throughout the month of September. Ms. Chassy's prints - often small and in black etching ink - feature people and places she "has a good mood for." An opening reception will be held on Saturday, September 16th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This is the first exhibit overseen by the AHC's recently appointed Exhibitions Director, Ms. Stephanie Ney. (Housing and Community Development)

14. Poetry Reading - September 14 (City-Wide): The work of Ms. Anne Becker and Ms. Lara Payne will be featured at the AHC's monthly poetry reading on Thursday, September 14 at 7:00 pm in the Takoma Park Community Center. The free event is hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger, and sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. (Housing and Community Development)

15. Story Time Programs in Spanish (City-Wide): A new monthly series of Saturday story time programs in Spanish begins October 7. Laura Kleinman, a bi-lingual storytelling expert and media specialist at Oyster Bilingual Elementary School will lead the hour-long program beginning at 10:30 a.m. (Library)

16. Summer Quest Celebration (City-Wide): The end of Summer Quest celebration will be held on Monday September 11 at 7:30 pm in the Children's Room, and will feature book sharing, crafts, and a raffle of the Library's 'giant bear' (formerly of Chuck and Dave's). (Library)

17. Friends Reading Group (City-Wide): The next Friends Reading Group meeting will be held Wednesday October 4th, in the Community Center Atrium at 7:30 pm, and will feature a discussion of "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel. Copies are available at the Library and all are invited to participate.

College Bound (City-Wide): College Bound programs are planned for the evenings of October 5th. ("Financial Aid for College" with Herm Davis), October 11 ("Going to College, an Overview" with Lori Potts-Dupre) and October 18 ("How to Prepare for the SATs" with Ilhan Cagre and Yahya Mokhtarzada). Funded by the Friends of the Library; call the Library for registration and details. (Library)